

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 30, 2006. Claims 1, 4, 6-17, 20-23, 29-32, and 37-41 are now presented for examination. Claims 5, 19, and 33-36 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. Claims 6, 7, 9, 10, and 14 have been amended to change their dependency, and Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the recitations of former Claim 5. New Claims 37-41 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1, 20, and 37 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 20 and 29-32 have been allowed, and Claims 5-10, 14-17, 33 and 34 have been indicated as allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim. The Examiner is thanked for those indications.

Claim 5, which was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form, has been canceled, and its recitations have been incorporated into Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 1 is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 37 has been added. That claim recites features that are the same as those from the version of Claim 15/1 that was depending prior to this Amendment. According to the Office Action, that Claim 15/1 would have been allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, because Claim 37 recites the same subject matter as that of former Claim 15/1, Claim 37 is deemed to be in condition for allowance.


The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another

of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Frank A. DeLucia', is written over a horizontal line.

Frank A. DeLucia
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 42,476

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

NY_MAIN 590877v1